

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01951 201724Z

46

ACTION EB-07

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1537

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT AS HK

SUBJECT: TEXTILES TQS - AUSTRALIA

HONG KONG PASS MINISTER JURICH FROM PHELAN

1. DORWARD (HONG KONG TSB REP) HAS INFORMED US REP THAT, IN COURSE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MILLS (HKG) AND GOA OFFICIALS IN CANBERRA ON MAR 7, GOA SPOKESMAN (FOGARTY) TOLD MILLS THAT A) GOA, IN MOST RECENT TEXTILE TQ ACTION REFRAINED FROM PLACING FOUR TEXTILE CATEGORIES UNDER TQ CONTRARY TO INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (IAC) RECOMMENDATIONS B) THAT GOA WOULD, OF COURSE, DEFER ACTION DECISIONS ON OTHER ITEMS PENDING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM IAC DUE APRIL 21; C) INDICATED THAT IT POSSIBLE THAT, IF RESTRAINT ACTIONS ON REMAINING CATEGORIES TEXTILE IMPORTS SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME NECESSARY, GOA MIGHT WISH TO USE ART. 3 AND/OR 4 OF MFA; AND, D) FINALLY THAT, FOR REASONS IN C) ABOVE GOA DID NOT RPT NOT WISH TO LEAVE MFA.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01951 201724Z

2. DORWARD SAID THAT HKG DID NOT KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET

FOREGOING GOA COMMENT TO MILLS. HE SPECULATED THAT PERHAPS GOA TEXTILE TQ ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN HAD COVERED SENSITIVE ITEMS AND THAT GOA, UNDER MOUNTING PRESSURE FROM TRADING PARTNERS, MIGHT BE ATTEMPTING OBTAIN ACCOMMODATION OF "TEMPORARY" PAST ACTIONS IN RETURN FOR PROMISE FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR IN FUTURE: WHICH STANCE, DORWARD SAID MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IN "SOME QUARTERS".

3. FOREGOING BACKGROUND MAY BE USEFUL JURICH TALKS WITH DAVID JORDAN MARCH 21. SINCE OUR CHARG'S REPRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION WITH GOA ON MARCH 13 (CANBERRA 1592) FOLLOWED MILLS' MARCH 7 TALK, IT SEEMS ODD THAT GOA DID NOT FOLLOW TEXTILE LINE PURSUED WITH MILLS, ESPECIALLY SINCE FOGARTY (GOA) PARTICIPATED BOTH TALKS. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT GOA MAY HAVE MADE PROPOSALS TO MILLS WHICH ARE ATTRACTIVE TO THE EVER PRAGMATIC HONG KONG INDUSTRY (AND HKG) AND WHICH MAY HAVE INDUCED DORWARD'S SPECULATION (PARA 2 ABOVE).

4. JURICH, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO DORWARD-PHELAN CONVERSATIONS MAY WISH TELL JORDAN HE "UNDERSTANDS HKG HELD TALKS WITH GOA IN CANBERRA EARLY IN MARCH " AND TO ASK JORDAN HKG'S CURRENT APPRAISAL OF GOA'S INTENTIONS AND HIS VIEW OF THE EFFECT "ACCOMMODATION" OF TEXTILE ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN BY GOA WOULD HAVE ON FUTURE OF MFA.

5. IN CONVERSATION WITH MIZOGUCHI (JAPAN TSB REP) MAR 19, MIZOGUCHI TOLD USREP THAT DESPITE "SEVERAL" PLEAS TO TOKYO FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON GOA TEXTILE ISSUE FOR GATT COUNCIL MEETING MAR 24, HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED SAME. SAID WOULD INFORM US REP AS SOON AS INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED. FURTHER SAID THAT DECISION ON HOW, WHEN AND WHERE GOJ WOULD PURSUE GOA ON TEXTILE TQ (AND OTHERS) ACTIONS WAS DIFFICULT ONE FOR TOKYO. DALE

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